

**SPORTS AUTHORITY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE
& DAVIDSON COUNTY**

**Minutes of September 16, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting
First Horizon Park – Club Lounge
10:30 a.m.**

Board Members: Cathy Bender (Chair), Frank Harrison (Vice-Chair), Kim Adkins, Margaret Behm, Don Deering, Jad Duncan, Glenn Farner, Melvin Gill, Aaron McGee

Staff: Monica Fawknorton, Quinton Herring, Melissa, Wells, Margaret Darby (Legal)

Predators/ Ford Ice Center: Kyle Clayton, Sean Henry, Bill Wickett

Sounds/ First Tennessee Park: Bryan Mayhood, Doug Scopel

Nashville SC: Mary Cavarra

Visitors: Kellen DeCoursey (CAA/ICON), Council Member Emily Benedict (District 7), Ron Gobbell (GHP, Inc.), Carol Greenlee (Mortenson/Messer), Jim Pustejovsky (Capital Project Solutions), Bryan Slater (CAA ICON), Joshua Thomas (Metro Legal), Council Member Nancy VanReece (District 8)

Chair Bender called the meeting of the Sports Authority Board of Directors to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance, including Council Member Nancy Van Reece from District 8.

Consider Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2021, Board Meeting

Upon a motion made by Director Adkins and seconded by Director Harrison, the Board approved the minutes from the August 19, 2021

Title IX Spotlight: Sports Authority Members Past and Present-Kim Adkins, Margaret Behm, Cathy Bender, Catana Stark, and Ed Temple.

Chair Bender recognized Monica Fawknorton to introduce the Title IX Spotlight. Ms. Fawknorton shared that at the June Board Meeting the Authority passed a resolution celebrating and commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX and, as part of this commemoration and leading up to the celebration, the Authority will spotlight Nashvillians- athletes, coaches, executives, and community leaders who have impacted our community through their leadership and support of women's athletics. This month's spotlight includes Sports Authority Members Ed Temple (Board member 1996-2018), Catana Starks (Board member 2016-2019), Cathy Bender (Board member 1997-present), Kim Adkins (Board member 2011-present), and Margaret Behm (Board member 2011-present). Director Harrison presented a Resolution honoring each of these individuals. Last month the board recognized Olympian and TSU Director of Track and Field Chandra Cheeseborough Video clips were shared of Coach Ed Temple and Coach Catana Starks.

Director Adkins interviewed Chair Bender, noting that the City of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, declared March 22, 2021, "Cathy Bender Day." Chair Bender played basketball for Mt. Juliet High School and Vanderbilt University. She was an early legacy Title IX scholarship recipient and has been inducted into the Vanderbilt Sports Hall of Fame, as well as the Tennessee Hall of Fame (former Sports Authority Board Member Chuck Merriweather nominated her).

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Fawknorton presented the Executive Director's Report. The Board will act on a Resolution approving an agreement between the Sports Authority and CAA ICON for consulting services related to

Phase 2 of the Women's Professional Sports Initiative. In addition, there will be reports from the MLS Stadium Teams and the Nashville Sounds. Ms. Fawknorton additionally reported that the posting for the Administrative Services position has closed—there were about one hundred applicants, and that the FIFA selection committee is visiting Nashville today as part of the 2026 World cup hosting bid which is being led by the Convention and Visitor's Corporation. In 2018 the Sports Authority voted to amend the Stadium Lease Agreement with the Titans to provide for use of the stadium if it is selected for a World Cup site.

Consider approval of a Resolution approving an agreement between the Sports Authority and CAA ICON for consulting services related to the Women's Professional Sports Initiative.

Ms. Fawknorton shared that almost a year ago the Authority approved the hiring of a consultant for Phase 2 of the Women's Professional Sports Initiative. This came after engaging CAA ICON to perform an initial study of the Nashville market, the current women's professional sports leagues, and the facilities in Nashville. The Phase 2 solicitation was sent out to over 100 firms, Metro Procurement ended up with one proposal which was evaluated by the selection committee, and CAA ICON was selected.

The contract is now ready for consideration by the Authority. The contract value is \$75,000 and will be paid out of the Sports Authority's administrative allocations from Bridgestone Arena—the same funding source used for Phase 1. The contract provides for additional services which, if needed are not to exceed \$25,000. The contractor will not perform any additional services without approval from staff (which would require approval from the Board).

Director Gill asked for additional information on the selection process, the additional services, and the hourly rate. The Selection Committee- comprised of Margaret Behm, Monica Fawknorton, Jenneen Kaufman, and Council Member Nancy VanReece (non-voting technical advisor), met in June and even though there was only one proposal evaluated it to ensure it met Procurement's criteria. The additional services are identified in the RFQ on page 4 of 31 to provide flexibility in the event certain, unforeseen services are needed later. The cost per hour applies to the additional services and is a blended rate- lower than what was initially proposed, the result of negotiations.

Director Gill also asked if CAA ICON qualifies as a small business. Bryan Slater (CAA ICON) explained that they are owned by Creative Artists Agency and not considered a small business. A Procurement committee met to determine whether this solicitation qualified for Metro Nashville's Equal Business Opportunity Program and, upon review, determined it was not a fit for the program.

Upon a motion made by Director Adkins and seconded by Director Duncan, the Authority voted to approve the contract between the Sports Authority and CAAICON for Phase 2 consulting services.

Since the agenda was related to Women in Sports, Director Behm congratulated Coach Josie Barnes, the Assistant Bowling Coach at Vanderbilt, for winning the U. S. Women's Open on August 31, 2021. Coach Barnes attended Vanderbilt from 2006-2010, was the first bowler to win NCCA Player of the Year twice, and, as a freshman, led the Commodores to an NCAA title. The prize money represents that bowling is working on providing equal prizes for men and women. Director Bender also thanked Director Behm for all she is doing to celebrate Title IX.

MLS Stadium Update

Mary Cavarra (Nashville SC) provided an update on the MLS Stadium construction. Nashville SC is supporting the efforts of the FIFA delegation in connection with the 2026 World Cup, and John Ingram is serving as the organizing committee chair along with Ian Ayre, Nashville SC CEO, and Burke Nihill,

Titans CEO. Nashville SC is performing well- currently in 2nd place in the Eastern Conference in only their 2nd year in MLS. The stadium project continues to make solid progress--\$193M has been spent to date, \$42M has been paid directly by Walsh Management, \$151M has been paid from revenue bonds, and no changes orders have been approved since the last meeting. Estimated cost continues to be unchanged.

Carol Greenlee (Mortenson/Messer) provided an update on the DBE participation. There is a 30% goal on the project. To date approximately \$202M of work has been awarded and 37% of that has been committed to DBE firms. Forty-four percent of the work hours represent women and people of color. Ms. Greenlee recognized an intern who is working on the project, Alyse Dees a student at Howard University, Virtual Design and Construction Intern. Director Duncan asked about the process for individuals getting internships, it is an on-going program through Mortenson/Messer.

Next, Jim Pustejovsky (Capital Project Solutions) provided an update on infrastructure. The project is about 25% complete and is still on schedule for completion in the Spring of 2022 and is within budget. The DBE participation target is 15% and the actual to-date participation is 24.5%, with soft cost participation at 43%. Overall DBE costs are at \$6M to-date and are projected to be \$7M total.

Facility Questions

Director Bender asked for an update on the new COVID protocol at Bridgestone Arena. Nashville Predators President and CEO Sean Henry shared that masks and proof of vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours are now being required. About 18 other NHL teams have the same requirements. This policy will go through November 15, 2021, and will then be reviewed. The goal is to not have to require masks and proof of vaccination or negative tests. Director Adkins expressed her appreciation for the requirements and for Ford Ice Center providing vaccine events. Mr. Henry added that vaccine events are being held at Ford Ice Center and at Bridgestone Arena. Director Behm and Chair Bender also expressed their appreciation and for the leadership being provided

Director Deering applauded the Tennessee Titans for their generous gifts for the Waverly flood victims and for providing the Waverly High School football team with their field.

First Horizon Park Updates

Doug Scopel (Sounds) provided an update on Horizon Park. The season is still going on because of the late start of the season. The Sounds are the only sports team in town that had no season in 2020. They have tried a lot of other business options during the pandemic. The team is a new affiliate with the Milwaukee Brewers and were previously associated with the Brewers several years ago. The Brewers are having a fantastic season, they are a heavy favorite to go to the World Series. The team is also in a new league this year-the Triple A East League, which is more regionally based, and travel is easier. The team is leading minor league baseball in attendance in 2021. Twenty-nine players have played for both the Sounds and the Brewers. New opponents that the team has not played since 1990 are: Braves (Gwinnett), Reds (Louisville), Indians (Columbus), Pirates (Indianapolis), White Sox (Charlotte), and Tigers (Toledo). Next year's schedule is out, the season will be opening April 5, 2022, and new league opponents to visit Nashville in 2022 include Durham Bulls (Rays), Norfolk Tides (Orioles), and Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp (Marlins). A member of the team, Jamie Westbrook, played on the United States Olympic Baseball team in Tokyo and they won a silver medal. One hundred plus events were hosted in 2021 including Music City Diamond Classic, 65 Nashville Sounds games, Folds of Honor Rock-N-Jock Celebrity Softball, and the Blended Festival. Upcoming events for the rest of the year are Nashville Brew Festival, Students for Liberty Conference, Nitro Circus Live, Bacon, Eggs, & Kegs Brunch fest, Vanderbilt vs Belmont NCAA Baseball, and Vanderbilt vs Lipscomb NCAA Baseball.

Director Deering applauded the Sounds' contributions to the Waverly and McEwen flood victims. Director Adkins expressed her appreciation for being back at the ballpark and Director Bender thanked the organization for being creative.

Chair Bender shared that the next meeting is Thursday, October 21, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

